service cases specially with regard to promotion and seniority etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government amends service rules including those relating to promotion and seniority whenever and wherever necessary.

Eighth Antarctica Expedition

2171. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would undertake eighth Indian expedition to Antarctica;

(b) if so, what are the details of exploration and studies to be conducted by Indian team in its eighth expedition;

(c) whether Government has exchange of knowledge and know how with the teams of otrer countries leading to expedition to Antarctica for mutual benefits; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such exchange of knowledge and know how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientific work proposed to be carried out during the eighth expedition is of considerable importance in the light of the signing of mineral regime on Antarctica. Studies include geological, geophysical, geomagnetic, meteorological, upper atmospheric, ozone depletion and oceanographic aspects. Construction the second station at Maitri will also be undertaken.

(c) and (d) The data and information collected during the expeditions are fully used by the various participating institutions in the country. These are also exchanged with the other countries which are the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties. The knowledge and experience gained during the previous expeditions have enabled India to contribute substantially in all the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty including the Minerals Regime which was adopted on 2nd June, 1988.

Use of the Delicate Strands of Algae

2172. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of the delicate strands of Algae commonly found floating in ponds and lakes in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is in the notice of Government that US Scientists are working on a certain group of Algae which produces large amounts of lipids which can be extracted and used to make diesel oil and petrol;

(d) if so, whether any experiments are being conducted in India to tap the potential of Algae as a source of diesel and petrol; and

(e) if so, whether and the stage at which the matter stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Some research work was done at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)